Distribution of power to private parties

†893. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that distribution of power has been handed over to private parties in most of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite privatization the problems of the public are intact;

(d) whether it is also a fact that transmission/electrification has also been affected adversely after privatization; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by Government to overcome these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Private distribution companies have been operating smoothly over a period of time in some parts of the country namely Calcutta Electric Supply Company (CESE) in Kolkata, Ahmedabad Electricity Company Ltd. in Ahmedabad, Surat Electricity Company Ltd. in Surat, TATA Power Company, Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Company Ltd. in Mumbai, Noida Power Company in Greater Noida.

The distribution in Orissa was privatized in 1999. In Delhi distribution has been privatized in July, 2002. It is expected that with greater efficiency quality of power supply and consumer satisfaction would gradually improve.

Study on fluorosis in drinking water

894. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has commissioned a study on the extent of fluorosis and has decided to launch a special programme to tackle the problem as part of a Rs. 12,545 crore plan to provide drinking water to all villages by 2004;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi